

## North York Moors National Park Authority

25 June 2012

### Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

1. <b>Purpose of the Report</b>
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| 1.1 To consider reports from Members attending meetings on outside bodies as representatives on the Authority. |
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2. **Background**

- 2.1 It was considered appropriate that Members attending meetings of bodies where they are representing the Authority should present a report, either verbal or written, on the issues discussed.

3. **Local Government Yorkshire and Humber and Welcome to Yorkshire with the All Party Group of Yorkshire MP's**

- 3.1 Philip Lawson attend a meeting of Local Government Yorkshire and Humber and Welcome to Yorkshire with All Party Group of Yorkshire MP's on the 25 May 2012. Attached at **Appendix 1** is a report of the meeting.

4. **Campaign for National Parks**

- 4.1 Steve Scoffin attend a meeting of Campaign for National Parks in March. Attached at **Appendix 2** is a report of the meeting.

4. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

5. **Sustainability Appraisal**

- 5.1 A Sustainability Assessment is not required because the report is an Administrative Issues report.

6. **Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. <b>Recommendation</b>
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| 7.1 That the report be noted. |
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**Background papers to this Report**

1. None

**File ref**

## **Yorkshire 2012 And Beyond Growing Our Economy - Boosting Our Region**

### **Second meeting of LGYH and Welcome to Yorkshire with the All Party Group of Yorkshire MP's - Leeds - 25 May 2012**

The National Park attended as members of LGYH.

Regionalism is far from dead. Following loss of the Regional Assembly there was some emphasis, but divided MP opinion, on the need to reconstruct a Regional Focus Body of some sort. More devolution was the LGYH theme.

'Welcome to Yorkshire' made the case for embracing more than Tourism by moving into the alleged economic vacuum left by demise of RDA's but not yet (apparently) being filled by the LEP's.

The initial promotional DVD featured several NYMNP scenes and the brochure '5 Ways to Grow the Yorkshire Brand' features Goathland on the cover.

The event led off with some initial thoughts by Yorkshire MP's. A keynote address by Hilary Benn MP got the debate going, but most MP's disappeared to keep other appointments as the day wore on.

The all party MP group has identified three priorities

- \* Transport (HS2, Port Development, Airport Growth)
- \* Tourism (Yorkshire as an international destination - Tiger economies)
- \* Renewable Energy (Manufacturing revival, inward investment, offshore servicing)

Achievement was said to require greater adaptability of the workforce and a concentration on new skills, new technologies and young entrepreneurs (start them at primary school age) if enough modern jobs are to be created to counterbalance the huge losses over recent years.

The commonly heard attack on the Planning system was repeated by the transport interests who still claim hold ups in delivering major infrastructure schemes.

The success of the Manchester brand is looked on with some envy by city regions east of the Pennines. The debate turned to alleged fragmentation of effort by having several city regions in competition with each other rather than promoting a single Yorkshire voice.

All present thought that these joint meetings with MP's should continue to be held.

Philip Lawson

## Campaign for National Parks

### 1 Update

1.1 The key work for the last 3 months included:

- Consultation on the Variation Orders to the proposed extensions to the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks;
- Twelve Nature Improvement Areas announced, two within National Parks (South Downs Way Ahead and the Dark Peak);
- Consultation on increasing National Park Authorities' local accountability;
- The Red Tape Challenge, the environment theme proposals with various statutory instruments relating to National Parks (in England) to be 'improved', but the provisions to remain the same;
- Preparation for a Visitor Payback Scheme Seminar in Sheffield on 2 April;
- In Wales, consultations have started on the Environment Green Paper 'Sustaining A living Wales', which will form the framework for all the future legislation, and on the creation of a single Welsh environmental statutory organisation;
- With our partners, National Parks Wales and NAAONBs, CNP has been identifying Welsh Assembly members who would support protected landscapes and influence the legislative and policy changes that impact on National Parks;
- Mosaic Wales started last month with the appointment of the three Mosaic Project officers, Jasmin Chowdhury Officer for the Brecon Beacons National Park, Pat Gregory, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, and Sian Roberts, Snowdonia National Park;
- CNP is Country Living's Charity of the Year and will feature in the magazine;
- South West Water was introduced as new member of the Corporate Forum.

1.2 The staff team was thanked for the huge amount of work done, especially with the the re-organisation and implementation of the re-designed CNP.

### 2 Taking CNP Forwards

2.1 Helen Jackson, CEO, gave a presentation outlining the background to the current situation and how CNP intended to move ahead. She emphasised that she wanted to hear views from Council has to how we could all work collaboratively for National Parks. Her presentation is available on request.

2.2 Five speakers, chosen from the CNP family - Caroline White CEO YHA, Nikki Williams Head of Campaigning Woodland Trust, Jim Wilson Chair of Brecon Beacons Park Society, Howard Davies, CEO NAAONBs and Matt Trimmer, Senior Adviser to the Director General of the National Trust - then spoke about how their organisations had had to change, adapting to financial circumstances and rapidly evolving campaigning opportunities.

2.3 This was followed by a question and answer session and breakout groups which addressed the question of *How can CNP work collectively to achieve campaign objectives for National Parks*. Each of four groups addressed the question with reference to specific issues – the potash mine in the North York Moors, the Lakes and Dales boundary review, undergrounding of overhead wires and water quality management. A fifth group explored the issues around partnership working in Wales with reference to an empowered Welsh Advisory Committee.

### **3 Departure of staff**

The meeting was the last opportunity to say goodbye to Ruth Chambers, Jim Bull and Amy Peters. Lord Judd proposed and it was agreed unanimously that Council send a message to those staff who are no longer with us, to say thank you for being extraordinarily effective and for the tremendous contribution that they've made to the cause of National Parks.